

R E M A R K S

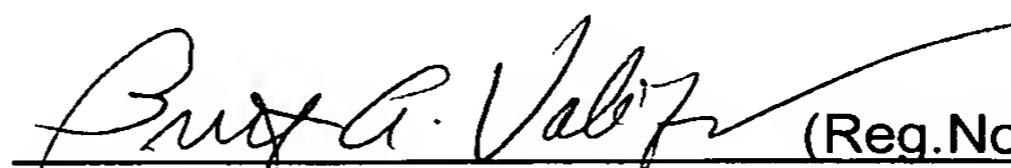
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the multiple interviews, the last of which occurred February 9. During the last interview, it was agreed that claim 1 as amended was allowable, subject to final review by the Supervisory Examiner, if necessary. Dependent claims 2-15 are also allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

It was also indicated during the interview that claims 16-18 would be cancelled and that an additional new claim 19 would be added identical to allowable claim 1 but deleting references to the separator punch (22 in Fig. 2) and the separations caused by that separator punch (see the punched out portion between the slots 19). The Examiner agreed that this independent claim 19 would also be allowable for the reasons claim 1 is allowable, but again subject to a final review by the Supervisory Examiner if necessary.

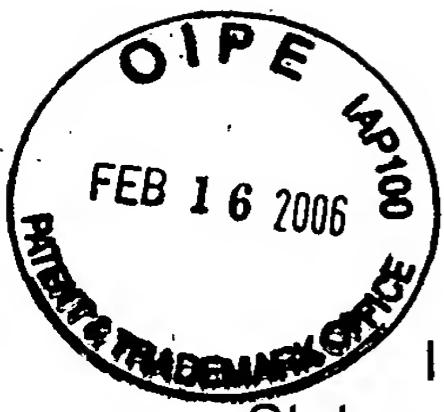
Claims 1 and 19 are allowable at least for reasons pointed out in the previous remarks of Amendment A and which were again reiterated during the telephone conferences.

Allowance of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

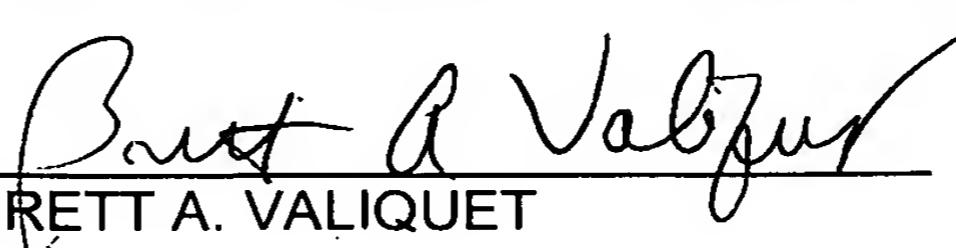

Brett A. Valiquet (Reg. No. 27,841)

Brett A. Valiquet
Schiff Hardin LLP
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 258-5786
Attorneys for Applicants.
CUSTOMER NO. 26574



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 13, 2006.


BRETT A. VALIQUET

CH1\4471302.1